

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 *Sub* 1. A method for automating the management of an inventory of  
2 consumer items at a consumer location using a programmed device that accepts input  
3 data and executes control logic for automating inventory management, the method  
4 comprising:

5 receiving at least one shopping list including at least one item;  
6 establishing a shopping list trend based on the at least one shopping  
7 list; and *ser + home*  
8 *store after purchase* *received*  
9 generating a smart list with the control logic, in accordance with the  
shopping list trend, such that the smart list is predictive of a next shopping list.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the at least one  
2 shopping list further comprises:

3 determining a shopping list of a shopping trip;  
4 *(rec. of paper)* storing information indicative of the shopping list on a data storage  
5 medium; and  
6 *(medium)* thereafter, retrieving the information from the data storage medium.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the at least one  
2 shopping list further comprises:

3 determining a shopping list of a shopping trip;  
4 *(phone call to work)* sending information indicative of the shopping list over a network;  
5 and  
6 receiving the information from the network.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving at least one consumed item list including at least one item  
3 that has been consumed, wherein the shopping list trend is further based on the at  
4 least one consumed item list.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein receiving the at least one  
2 consumed item list further comprises:

3 identifying an item upon consumption thereof, the item having a tag  
4 and the item being identified by recognizing the tag.

5  
6 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the tag is a bar code and the  
7 tag is recognized by scanning the bar code.

1 7. The method of claim 4 wherein receiving the at least one  
2 consumed item list further comprises:  
3 identifying an item upon consumption thereof by recognizing the item  
4 with a camera.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 comparing the smart list with the next shopping list; and  
3 modifying the shopping list trend based on the comparison.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein generating the smart list  
2 further comprises:  
3 receiving a plurality of item price lists from a corresponding plurality  
4 of shopping locations; and  
5 recommending a shopping location based on the plurality of item price  
6 lists and the smart list.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein <sup>Smart ?</sup>generating the shopping list  
2 further comprises:  
3 receiving an item list for a recipe; and  
4 generating the smart list further based on the item list for the recipe.

1 11. A system for managing an inventory of consumer items at a  
2 consumer location, the system comprising:  
3 control logic operative to receive at least one shopping list including  
4 at least one item, to establish a shopping list trend based on the at least one shopping  
5 list, and to generate a smart list in accordance with the shopping list trend such that  
6 the smart list is predictive of a next shopping list.

1                   12.    The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic operative to  
2   receive the at least one shopping list is further operative to retrieve the at least one  
3   shopping list from a data storage medium.

1                   13.    The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic operative to  
2   receive the shopping list is further operative to receive the at least one shopping list  
3   over a network connection.

1                   14.    The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic is further  
2   operative to receive at least one consumed item list including at least one item that  
3   has been consumed, and wherein the shopping list trend is further based on the at  
4   least one consumed item list.

1                   15.    The system of claim 14 wherein the control logic operative to  
2   receive the at least one consumed item list is further operative to identify an item  
3   upon consumption thereof, the item having a tag and the item being identified by  
4   recognizing the tag.

5                   16.    The system of claim 15 wherein the tag is a bar code and the  
6   tag is recognized by scanning the bar code.

1                   17.    The system of claim 14 wherein the control logic operative to  
2   receive the at least one consumed item list is further operative to identify an item  
3   upon consumption thereof by recognizing the item with a camera.

1                   18.    The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic is further  
2   operative to compare the smart list with the next shopping list, and to modify the  
3   shopping list trend based on the comparison.

1                   19.    The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic operative to  
2   generate the smart list is further operative to receive a plurality of item price lists

3 from a corresponding plurality of shopping location, and to recommend a shopping  
4 location based on the plurality of item price lists and the smart list.

5 20. The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic operative to  
6 generate the shopping list is further operative to receive an item list for a recipe, and  
7 to generate the smart list further based on the item list for the recipe.

1 21. The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic comprises:  
2 a smart device sized for integration with a home appliance.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the smart device further  
2 comprises:  
3 a display for displaying the smart list.

1 23. The system of claim 11 wherein the control logic comprises:  
2 a computer readable storage media having instructions thereon that are  
3 executable by a computer to manage the inventory of consumer items at the  
4 consumer location.